

THE TIMES FOUNDED 1888.  
THE DISPATCH FOUNDED 1860.

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## USE OF DYNAMITE ON VIRGINIA FARMS

Getting Down to Sub-  
soil Deeper Than the  
Plow Can Possibly Go.

### MODERN METHODS TEACH VIRGINIA

Dynamite Claims to Be a Guar-  
antee Against Horrors of a  
Drought Year—How the  
Earth Shakes Up to  
Meet the Wants  
of Man.

BY FRANK S. WOODSON.

Frederick's Hall, Va., August 12.—I have been reading a good deal within the past year or two about the use of dynamite on the farm. I have read much of how the explosive is useful in subsiding, in ditching, in draining, in fruit tree planting, in stump exterminating and all that kind of thing. I could readily see how dynamite would go deeper into the subsoil than the plow, how the explosive could open a ditchway in fewer minutes than spades and hoes would require hours; how a drain could be blown out 100 per cent. cheaper than plowed and dug out; how a hole in which to plant a fruit tree or any other kind of tree could be made with dynamite quicker than a fruit grower could sharpen his spade for the work by the old method, and make the hole deeper and perhaps better, and I did not need to draw on imagination to see a stump flying through the air in the shape of a splinter when dynamite got under it, in the time it would take the driver to hitch his horses to a stump pulling machine.

Got Into a Controversy.

All of that was as clear as day to me, but I must confess that I was afraid of dynamite, and I think I so expressed myself in this paper. Thereupon Delos D. Wakelee, a newcomer to Virginia, who has invested largely in Louisa and Spotsylvania county lands, and who is doing a lot of farming, or proposes to do a big lot, with the help of dynamite, invited me to come up here and see some of the work done, and this to the end that my fears might be removed and that I might see with my own eyes the value of dynamite in Virginia farming. With fear and trembling I came, and the other day I saw an acre of Louisa county land now ready for alfalfa by the use of dynamite.

A Demonstrator From 'Way Back.

This man Wakelee is a Pennsylvania farmer who had read a good deal in the Industrial Section about the advantages of dynamite, and he decided to try it on his farm. He had heard that it was a "patch," his idea being to find out by demonstration on this "patch" just what it was best to cultivate for profit in this part of Virginia, and then spread himself with the best things on the big Spotsylvania and Louisa county farms. He had been in the business for some time, and he had been doing some demonstrating on his "patch." Mr. Wakelee had seen in the West a good deal of farming with dynamite, and about the first conclusion he reached was that of all the lands he had ever seen, these were the best. He had named the most—that is, the best—a real shaking up. He had had some experience with the explosive, and he was quick to arrange with the E. I. DuPont-DeNemours Powder Company to furnish the dynamite and also, with the aid of an expert, to demonstrate. He had a lot of dynamite, and he had something to say about it in the Industrial Section, and that is how I got in touch with Wakelee.

A Day of Work and Fun.

Inasmuch as he proposed to shake up an acre upon which to demonstrate the value of dynamite, he arranged with Thornton S. Baskerville, of the DuPont Company, to be here this week and do the shaking up in first-class style, and he sent for me to come and see. He also issued invitations to many farmers to be on hand and see for themselves. About 100 of them, some accompanied by their wives and children, came, and we had a most interesting day, and a jolly good time, and that is what I want to tell about.

The main work was done in subsiding. A measured acre of ground was laid off, and all the morning two able-bodied men spent about six hours in making the holes. The insertion of dynamite, for subsiding the dynamite is planted in holes three feet deep, from ten to fifteen feet apart, according to the character of the soil. In this case the holes were made fifteen feet apart each way. With a crowbar and two sledges, hammers, two able-bodied men spent about six hours in making the holes. An hour was consumed by the two workmen and Mr. Baskerville in preparing the dynamite, attaching the fuses and the caps, and then it took less than a half-hour to insert the Red Cross dynamite cartridges in the holes. The insertion was simple enough. The cartridges, or half-cartridges, were easily put in the holes and forced to the bottom with a hoe helve, and then a little tamping was done.

A Short Lecture.

With the holes fifteen feet apart each way, it took 194 holes to cover an acre, and as only a half a cartridge was required, it took forty-eight pounds of dynamite to fill the bill. The next thing was to light the fuses in each of the 194 holes. This was rapidly done, but before commencing this rather interesting work, Mr. Baskerville, encouraged by a goodly audience of Louisa and Spotsylvania county farmers, could not resist the temptation to make a little lecture on the advantages of farming with dynamite. He

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ADMIRING DYNAMITED FLOWER GARDEN.

DRILLING HOLES FOR SUBSOILING.

STUMP BLOWN TO ATOMS.



WAITING FOR FIRST EXPLOSION.

LIGHTING THE FUSE.

## THE STANDARD FOR APPLE BARRELS

Divided Sentiment Among Fruit  
Growers of Virginia—One  
Inch Separates Them.

### NATIONAL STANDARD WANTED

New York Law Seems to Govern  
in Most Sections of  
Country.

It seems that the fruit growers of Virginia are just now discussing among themselves the question, "What is a standard barrel?" In which to pack apples for the markets of the country. Only last week The Times-Dispatch published an article by Walter Whiteley, of Crozet, the secretary of the Virginia Horticultural Society, in which the so-called Virginia standard barrel measuring twenty-seven and a half inches in length, being one inch longer than the so-called Virginia standard barrel.

Clarence W. Moomaw, of Staunton, the general manager of the Virginia Fruit Growers (Inc.), in a recent talk with a Staunton newspaper man, gives his reasons for his belief in the use of the New York standard, which measures twenty-eight and a half inches in length, being one inch longer than the so-called Virginia standard barrel.

Manager Moomaw stated that proportionately more of the New York standard barrels are used each year, and that the time is not far distant when practically all standard packed Virginia apples will be shipped in the twenty-eight and a half-inch standard barrel.

Must Accept Common Standard.

Speaking of the attitude of the Virginia Fruit Growers (Inc.) toward its use of the so-called New York standard, as opposed to the so-called Virginia standard, Mr. Moomaw had the following to say:

"In view of the fact that the twenty-eight and a half inch standard, or 100-quart, barrel is generally accepted the country over as the national standard apple barrel, and especially in view of the specific requirement of New York City, and looking to the best interest of our members and the future of the Virginia State apple industry, we long since decided that if we expect to establish a fine reputation for our brands and secure to the members throughout the Valley of Virginia and vicinity the best results in the way of returns, we must without doubt accept the so-called New York standard apple barrel as the standard of the organization."

"We knew full well the minimum measurement prescribed by the Virginia statute, but also in the light of our experience with domestic and foreign markets, we knew full well with what disfavor the 27½-inch standard barrel meets both the wholesale and retail dealers, as well as in many cases with the law itself. So, in placing our contracts for barrels, our members were not to make the barrel the measurement accepted by law as standard for New York and accepted by custom as standard in the country over."

Difference in Measurement.

"As for difference in measurement, it has been asserted by some that the New York standard barrel holds one peck more than the so-called Virginia standard, and that the growers who are required to pack in the New York standard must lose one peck of apples to the barrel, while, as a matter of fact, the difference is one gallon."

"But whether the difference be one gallon or one bushel, the price does not make the barrel; the barrel makes the price, and, as far as we are concerned, if we were buying apples on our own account, we would most as-

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OPENING HOLE FOR FRUIT TREE PLANTING.

## RECORDS MADE IN VIRGINIA COAL

Interesting Facts and Figures  
Gathered by Statistician of the  
Geological Survey.

Edward W. Parked, coal statistician of the United States Geological Survey has issued an interesting statement concerning Virginia's coal output for the year 1910. He shows that the total output for last year was 6,507,997 tons with a spot value of nearly \$6,000,000. According to Mr. Edwards' figures as digested by the Manufacturers' Record Virginia established two new records in the statistics of her coal production in 1910: first, in quantity of coal produced, and second, in the amount and percentage of increase over the preceding year. The production in 1909, 4,762,217 short tons, was exceeded in 1910 by the unprecedented increase of 1,755,780 tons, nearly 37 per cent. The value increased \$1,626,430, or 33 per cent., from \$4,251,056 to \$5,877,486. Although little, if any, of the Virginia product was shipped to the West to make up the deficiency caused by the prolonged strike in the mines of the Mississippi Valley States, the shortage in those States was the indirect cause of the remarkable increase in Virginia's tonnage. The strike in the Middle West naturally created an unusual demand upon the coal mines of West Virginia, and a large part of the production of that State, customarily sent to the seaboard, was diverted to the temporarily more profitable markets in the West.

This demand in turn gave opportunity for a larger outlet in the United States for Virginia coals, an opportunity of which the Virginia coal men were not slow to take advantage.

Virginia stands well up among the States in the quantity of coal produced for each man employed. In 1910 the number of men employed was 7,264, who worked an average of 241 days. The average production per man was 896 tons for the year, and 3.72 tons for each day. Both of these averages are better than those shown in the majority of the coal-producing States. Most of the coal-producing States work ten hours a day. Of the 7,264 men employed in 1910, 5,710 worked ten hours and 1,021 worked nine hours. Only one mine was reported as working eight hours.

To Virginia belongs the distinction of having produced the first bituminous coal mined in the United States. This initial output, however, was not derived from that portion of the State which now gives Virginia some prominence as a producer of coal, but was obtained from what is generally known as the Richmond basin, a small area near this city lying in Henrico, Goochland and Chesterfield counties.

## VIEWS AND NEAR VIEWS; HINTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Timely Topics Briefly Discussed—Richmond  
Should Go to Shoemaking—ig Railroad  
Figures—Virginia Can Grow More Cot-  
ton—Thoughts, Wise and Otherwise.

BY FRANK S. WOODSON,  
Industrial Editor.

As a wholesale shoe market, Richmond stands very high up on the list of such markets in this country, probably sixth or seventh. Lynchburg stands perhaps a little higher than Richmond because Lynchburg manufactures so many shoes. I have never been able to understand why Richmond should not manufacture all the shoes and all kinds of shoes its jobbers need to handle. Maybe it will some day, when the State of Virginia with its penitentiary labor goes out of the shoemaking business. William E. Curtis, in a most interesting letter in the Chicago Record-Herald, gives some shoemaking statistics. He figures out that the little city of Brockton, fifteen miles south of Boston, produces more than 10 per cent. of the shoes made in the United States, with an aggregate value of \$27,500,000 a year. Lynn, which has been the boot and shoe capital for 150 years, lost its position in 1900, and has since held the second place. It still makes from \$25,000,000 to \$30,000,000 worth of shoes, perhaps 8 per cent. or more of the total for the whole country. Lynn is being very closely pushed by St. Louis, and it is a question if the Western city will not soon be entitled to second place. It had an annual output of more than \$25,000,000 at the latest returns, and jumped from the ninth place in 1890 to the third place in 1905 among the shoemaking centres. St. Louis increased its output from 1900 to 1905 more than 150 per cent., while Brockton increased 51½ per cent. and Lynn 54 per cent.

With its unsurpassed facilities for distributing goods all over the country and all over the world Richmond ought to get into the shoemaking business.

At Old Tricks, or What?

When a man gets a black eye, or in any way gets knocked about, other men naturally get sympathetic. Same as to corporations and trusts and things. Since the Supreme Court of the United States handed out a black eye to the American Tobacco Company there has been expressed doubt in this part of the country where that company is so intimately connected with one of our leading money crops, a great deal of sympathy. But now comes along a New York paper talking up some back history that may well be calculated to knock that sympathy into the middle of next week. That paper (the Evening Post) tells us that "on December 7, 1895, the American Tobacco Company published an advertisement saying that though the

usual quarterly dividend of 2 per cent. could be paid on the preferred stock in the next February, no dividend would be paid at that time on the common stock, which had been receiving 3 per cent. quarterly, or 13 per cent. a year. The reason stated was that the company needed its earnings for other purposes. On this announcement the common stock dropped in two days from 75 to 62. A fortnight later came the Venezuelan panic, which must have been a stroke of luck for any one who wanted to accumulate American Tobacco stock.

"On April 1, 1896, four months, less seven days, after the announcement of the omission of the common stock dividend, the American Tobacco Company published another advertisement saying that there had been declared upon American Tobacco common a dividend of 22 per cent. in new stock. This announcement appeared around 25, and before the end of the week it was 35, an advance of 32 points in less than four months."

About ten days ago the tobacco company again suspended dividends on its common stock and the latter broke violently. Wonder if the tobacco folks are playing old tricks, even while under the Supreme Court ban?

### Some Railway Statistics.

The 1911 edition of Poor's Manual shows that gross earnings of the steam roads of the United States for 1910 were \$2,804,580,939, an increase of \$291,663,176 or 11.59 per cent. Net earnings were \$919,060,312, an increase of \$66,807,032, or 7.85 per cent. The capital stock per mile of main line roads was \$34,922, an increase of 4.36 per cent. Funded debt per mile was \$10,004, an increase of 5.29 per cent. The aggregate capital, stocks, bonds, equipment, notes, etc., was \$78,714 per mile, as against \$75,905 in 1909. A consolidated balance sheet of all the roads shows total assets and liabilities of \$21,339,360,716. The aggregate of bonds and bond obligations outstanding is \$10,510,000,000. Statistics of rolling stock in use show 63,030 locomotives, 319,879 miles in 1910, as against 313,337 miles in 1909; 338,776 miles in 1908, and 324,033 miles in 1907.

The roads that run through Virginia make mighty good showings in all of these Poor Manual figures. There are good pickings for good railroads

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## FREDERICK'S HALL IN LOUISA COUNTY

Some Ancient History and  
Twentieth Century Develop-  
ment.

### NORTHERNERS COMING IN

Grand Old Mansion, With a His-  
tory of Over a Hundred  
Years.

Frederick's Hall, Louisa county, Va., August 12.—More than a hundred years ago there lived within a stone's throw of the spot from which I now write a very wealthy gentleman by the name of Frederick Harris. He was born near here and inherited considerable property. He was a good farmer and a splendid business man. He made money, a great deal of it, and he was a land buyer, investing all of his earnings in real estate until his acres amounted to between 6,000 and 7,000 and he cultivated them, too, about the year 1808 he commenced the erection of a country mansion that he intended should be the largest and most pretentious of any building then in this region of the country. He bought the bricks in England, had them shipped under sail to Richmond and hauled from the Richmond wharf to this place by wagons. The mansion was completed 101 years ago this summer, and Mr. Harris named it "Frederick's Hall." He resided there as long as he lived.

It is an imposing old mansion, standing in sight of the station of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, which took its name from the old home. The mansion and several hundred acres surrounding it are now owned by J. V. Hardenberg, a gentleman who came here from Pennsylvania about twenty years ago and bought it from the heirs of Harris.

All of the descendants of Frederick Harris have passed over the river except one son and his children. This son went to Texas soon after the Civil War and made a fortune there. He is now the president and principal owner of a large and flourishing bank in Paris, Texas.

Old Time Tobacco Business.

In his day Frederick Harris and all of his neighbors were great tobacco growers, and it took seven large warehouses here, where the village of Frederick's Hall now stands, to hold the weed that was brought here to be sold.

Buyers rode horseback and came in buggies and gigs from Richmond and Petersburg to buy tobacco from Harris and his neighbors. During the War Between the States the United States government confiscated over 1,000 hogheads of tobacco, which Grant's soldiers found stored in the warehouses here. For several years after the war the owners of this tobacco tried to get Congress to pay for the goods taken in war times, but they never succeeded. Some of the heirs of the owners are still hoping for an appropriation while they wave the old flag.

Modern Farms Flourish.

The vast acres once owned by the Harris family have been sold off and given up into small farms varying in size from 100 to 500 acres, and numbers of them are now owned and are being successfully operated by Northerners and Westerners, mostly from Pennsylvania and Ohio, and all of them are doing well, profitably growing the many good things for which the lands in this glorious section of Old Virginia are famous and enjoying the pure waters and the superb climate. W. C. A. Pettit, formerly of Fluvanna county, is the wide-awake land agent, who together with the industrial department of the Chesapeake

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## REAL ESTATE AND BUILDING NEWS

Dull Week Enlivened by  
Good Reports On  
Ahead.

### ONE LARGE DEAL; OTHERS ON STRING

Agents Who Are at Home Are  
Reticent, but, All the Same, Busi-  
ness Is Good—Everything  
Points to Good Fall Busi-  
ness—Suburban  
Notes.

While there is some talk yet of the midsummer dullness, and while there are yet many real estate investors and a whole lot of real estate agents still enjoying holiday and vacation, as they call it, the fact remains that there is not a little activity in the circles that are most interesting to real estate men.

During the so-called midsummer dullness there has been going on a lot of dickering and trading. It may not be known to the average reader but the fact is that there are many people who take advantage of what is known as the holiday season to do their best and most profitable trading, to pick up a fat thing here and there.

Maybe the word trading best suits the situation, for the dull season. It is just that kind of season in which much swapping is done. It may be called trading, but possibly swapping there was a better name for it. Anyhow there was a good deal of swapping done the last week. Whether it be a direct sale or a trade or a swap, the agent who engineers whatever it may be, comes out on top every time; for going and coming he collects his commissions.

### A Big One of Its Kind.

A big swapping and trading deal in the real estate event of the past week. One deal involves a matter of \$230,000 or thereabouts, and swapping was a feature of it. By this deal Arthur L. Strause, the firm of Strause & Gunst, became the owner of that valuable property on the south side of Broad Street, between Fourth and Fifth, occupied as a big retail store by Fourquean, Temple & Co., and for the said property Mr. Strause is supposed to have paid the handsome sum of \$150,000. He has been the owner for nearly a year. But Mr. Strause did not pay altogether cash. He owned some very desirable warehouse property on Twenty-second Street, between Main and Franklin, and also some very good property, more or less vacant, on Broad Street near Madison. All of this; the warehouse property and the Broad Street property, he valued at something like \$80,000.

There was made by the terms of which Dr. Davidson now owns the warehouse property and the Broad and Madison Street property valued at \$80,000, and Mr. Strause holds the property, valued at \$150,000. The difference is \$70,000, and Mr. Strause is mighty good for the difference. J. A. Connelly & Co., one of the largest and most active real estate agencies in this part of Virginia, engineered this deal, and the deal, and the supposition is "give and come." This was the big event of the week.

### Rumors in the Air.

There were many rumors of another big transaction that seem to be more in the air or on the string than on the ground. The rumors pointed to a supposed deal of valuable grounds at Shafer and Broad Streets. The rumors had it that H. S. Wallerstein, who owns the same, having bought it for a future profit, had sold to folks who proposed to do a big development stunt, and the folks were reported to be away yonder in the thousands. Mr. Wallerstein was out of town yesterday, and according to reports will be for many days yet to come. The agents who generally know much about his deals professed absolute ignorance of any Shafer Street deal, and there was no way to ascertain names of the supposed purchasers. Maybe there has been no really consummated deal, but that negotiations are on there can be no doubt.

### Richeson & Cutchner.

A pretty good office business the past week, having sold about \$30,000 worth of property, including a sore on West Broad Street near Lombardy, and a good lot of vacant property on Main near the Boulevard. There sales added to a number of smaller ones here, there and everywhere about the city, run their sales up to the total mentioned.

J. Thompson Brown & Co., while reticent as to particulars, admit sales of business and residence property within the old city limits amounting to about \$10,000.

Pollard & Bagby report sales of various city and suburban properties, amounting in the aggregate to about \$10,000. The W. E. Purcell, Jr., Company tell of sales of residential properties that amount to nearly \$20,000, but they are reticent as to details. N. W. Bowe & Son never go into particulars, but they do say that the outlook was never better. The smiles carried by the junior members of the concern were ample evidence that business had not been dull with them the past week.

The Penons report very active inquiry going on, but say that the most of it means good fall business rather than immediate transactions.

### The Renters' Troubles.

H. Seldon Taylor & Company report two or three real good small sales, the particulars of which they would rather not tell about, and the junior member of the firm added: "Everything is in a rental way just now. This 'phone keeps me busy all the time of that line, and I have but little chance to talk sales to you or anybody else." He did seem right busy at the 'phone just then. A female renter who wanted

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